

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

STATE OF THE COUNTY

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

March 11, 2015
6:57 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

A P P E A R A N C E S:

NORMA GONSALVES
Chair

KEVAN ABRAHAMS
Minority Leader

SIELA A. BYNOE

CARRIÉ SOLAGES

DENISE FORD

LAURA CURRAN

FRANCIS X. BECKER

HOWARD J. KOPEL

VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA

RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

ELLEN BIRNBAUM

DELIA DeRIGGI-WHITTON

JAMES KENNEDY

LAURA SCHAEFER

DENNIS DUNNE, SR.

JUDY JACOBS

ROSE MARIE WALKER

DONALD MACKENZIE

STEVEN RHOADS

WILLIAM MULLER
Clerk of the Legislature

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: At this time I
3 will call Mr. Karons to advance the colors.

4 MR. KARONS: Ladies and gentlemen,
5 please rise as our veterans present the colors.

6 (Whereupon, the colors were presented.)

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I am pleased to
8 present to you Legislator Laura Schaefer, who
9 will lead us in the National Hymn.

10 (Whereupon, the National Hymn was
11 played.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: At this time I
13 ask Mr. Karons to dismiss the colors.

14 (Whereupon, the colors were dismissed.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We will
16 officially open the meeting of the Nassau County
17 Legislature with the calling of the roll. Mr.
18 Clerk, Mr. Muller, please call the roll.

19 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding Officer
20 Nicolello?

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

22 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy
23 Presiding Officer Kopel?

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

25 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Bynoe.

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

3 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Solages?

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

5 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford? Is
6 here.

7 Legislator Curran?

8 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

9 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Muscarella?

12 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

13 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Birnbaum?

14 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

15 CLERK MULLER: Legislator DeRiggi-
16 Whitton?

17 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

18 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Kennedy?

19 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

20 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Schaefer?

21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

22 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

23 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

24 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

25 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

2 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

4 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Mackenzie?

5 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

6 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader Abrahams?

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

8 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer

9 Gonsalves?

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

11 CLERK MULLER: We have a quorum.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The meeting of
13 the Nassau County Legislature is now open, and
14 marks the occasion of, I believe, the Sixth State
15 of the County Address.

16 We have a timed scheduled that we must
17 follow. I'm looking for a signal for when I can
18 introduce our county executive. So, bear with me
19 until I get that signal.

20 At this time, ladies and gentlemen, I am
21 privileged to present to you our Nassau County
22 Executive, Edward P. Mangano, to deliver the
23 State of the County Address.

24 COUNTY EXECUTIVE MANGANO: Good evening
25 and welcome to the State of the County Speak, or

commonly referred to this year as Legislators On Ice. First up will be Norma and Kevan.

Seriously. Good evening and welcome.

I'd like to begin by thanking Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves, Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams and all of our County Legislators for hosting this State of the County Address. And let's collectively welcome our newest members of the Legislature, Legislators James Kennedy and Steve Rhoads. Congratulations. I also appreciate the presence of my colleagues in government; our Comptroller George Maragos is with us, our County Clerk Maureen O'Connell, Acting District Attorney Madeline Singas, and, of course, members of our learned judiciary. I thank all of you who came out tonight.

A special thank you to the Family Residences and Essential Enterprises Jazz Ensemble for entertaining guests tonight with your musical performance; I hope you enjoyed it. And how about Legislator Laura Schaefer leading us in our National Anthem. I think Fran Becker has a replacement. And, most importantly, thank you to the Vietnam Veterans of American, Chapter

82, for serving as honor guard. And for that matter, will all of our veterans please rise and be recognized. But for your service and sacrifice, we would not enjoy the freedoms that we enjoy in these United States. Thank you.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you for your service and dedication. I am happy to announce that this year, along with Connie Steers and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, we declared Nassau a Purple Heart County, to recognize all those who shed their blood in the fight to protect freedom and democracy.

Before we begin, let us take a moment to mourn the loss of Inwood Fire Department Ex-Chief and Nassau County employee, Joseph J. Sanford, Jr., who died in the line of duty fighting a house fire in Woodmere. He exemplifies the danger our volunteer firefighters place themselves in to protect us.

Tonight, we are joined by Joseph's wife Jackie, his daughter Janisha, brother Kyle and their family. Jackie, on behalf of our residents and all the men and women in the volunteer fire service, we thank you for sharing your husband

with us. We will never forget his heroic sacrifice.

In addition, let us remember the New York Police Department Detectives Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu, both of whom were assassinated in cold blood in the line of duty.

Tonight we are joined by Detective Ramos' wife Maritsa, and their children Justice, Jayden and Cindy, as well as Detective Liu's wife Sanny and his parents. On behalf of Nassau's 1.3 million residents, we thank you for sharing your husbands with us, in helping to protect our region and our way of life. No words can comfort your family for such a tragic loss; however, I want each of you to know how grateful we are for your husbands' bravery in serving as a police officer, and we join in mourning your loss.

We will never forget their service, nor the service of our fallen officers: Geoffrey Breitkopf, Michael Califano, Charles Cole, Arthur Lopez, Joseph Oliveri, and all those who made the supreme sacrifice.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us stand tonight in solidarity with the brave men and

women of law enforcement, the fire service and Armed Forces by taking a moment of silence to honor those who lost their lives in the line of duty, those who were wounded, and all of those around the world who keep Nassau County, New York State, and our nation safe.

I wish to take a moment to remember the legacy of former Nassau County Executive Francis Purcell, and welcome his family tonight. Fran served as Nassau County Executive from 1978 to 1987. Fran often called me from his home in Florida to offer kind words of support and advice. I will miss our conversations and his guidance. He led this great County with honor and commitment to its residents. Though we lost Fran, his legacy lives on at Mitchel Field, where he redeveloped a former Navy airbase into a business, sports, and entertainment complex. In 2004, a portion of land was renamed the Francis T. Purcell Preserve at the Hempstead Plains.

We are joined here tonight by Fran's daughter Diane and their family. Let us all take a moment of silence in the memory of County Executive Francis Purcell.

Quality of life in Nassau is a cherished asset. It was when Fran Purcell was County Executive and it's just as important today. I have been clear since day one that my vision was, and continues to be, to make Nassau an even better place to live, work, and raise a family, because, at the end of the day, our families mean everything to us. Just as our parents struggled to provide a better life for us, my team and I are intent on providing a better County for the next generation.

On a personal note, a big thank you to my family for all their love, support, and encouragement they give me each and every day. I'm happy that they're with us here today; my wife Linda, my sons Sal and Al, my parents John and Rachel, my brother John and Cindy, and, of course, a big shout out to my brother Rob who is fighting cancer and couldn't be with us tonight. But he'll make it.

I want our children and our grandchildren to desire to call Nassau County their home. I want my children to want to live here. This takes hard work, reform, and the ability to

identify challenges and present bold situations.

In this regard, a challenge we face is convincing Millennials - young adults ages 20 to 35 - to call Nassau County their home.

We are addressing this challenge by creating new transit-oriented housing, building attractive sports and entertainment destinations, fostering a strong economy that creates jobs, and providing a safe County with a financially secure government delivering efficient services. I'm proud to report we have made significant progress in each area, not by throwing money at the problem but, rather, by launching innovative out-of-the-box, public-private partnerships and by involving citizens in advancing problem-solving solutions.

The foundation of our quality of life is safety. I made this a priority, and I am proud to announce that crime is down by 25 percent in Nassau County since I took office. In fact, crime is the lowest rate since statistics were first recorded.

I commend the brave, dedicated, and well-trained men and women of the Nassau County Police

Department for their tireless efforts to combat crime. Special recognition goes to the Police Department's Criminal Intelligence Rapid Response Team, commanded by Lieutenant James Watson, for their success in making over 1,000 arrests. These arrests have had a major impact on curtailing the use and sale of heroin and prescription narcotics.

Successfully reducing crime is directly attributable to our officers, our intelligence-led policing models and strategic communication. Advancements in technology - made possible with the support of Legislators Dennis Dunne and Fran Becker and the entire Legislature - have made it possible for police officers to receive and input valuable intelligence through the computers in their patrol vehicles, effectively turning these patrol vehicles into mobile police stations.

The use of innovative technologies, such as license plate readers and the ShotSpotter system - to detect and pinpoint locations of gunfire - has also contributed to decreases in crime. Additionally, our Gun Buyback Program, in conjunction with the Office of the District

Attorney, has taken nearly 3,500 illegal guns off our streets and helped reduce shootings by 24 percent.

Nassau is the safest large suburban county in America, and significantly safer than it was five years ago. And I intend to keep it that way.

My administration, through a partnership with the Police Foundation, chaired by Eric Blumencranz, will construct a new, state-of-the-art Center for Training and Intelligence. With this step, we move police training from out-dated facilities to modern venues that advances our nationally acclaimed intelligence-led policing models. To be located on the grounds of Nassau Community College, the facility will create significant educational opportunities for our students and provide an opportunity to generate revenue for taxpayers by hosting national police conferences. The facility, scheduled to open in 2017, will be largely be funded by asset forfeiture dollars, foundation donations, and Nassau's capital plan.

Building on our efforts to keep Nassau

families safe, my administration, working with Legislator Don MacKenzie, launched a free service known as Smart 911. Smart 911 allows residents to register their cell phone numbers with the police and create a free safety profile for their household. Available at Smart911.com, your profile can provide 911 operators with names, photos of all family members, medical conditions, allergies, pets, and emergency contacts. I encourage residents to sign up today.

We have truly enhanced public safety in Nassau, while, at the same time, consolidation police administration to save taxpayers millions of dollars. Tonight, I recognize these efforts by Acting Police Commissioner Tom Krumpter and the officers joining him to stand and be recognized for their services and dedication to our residents.

Public safety is the foundation of our quality of life, and good-paying job opportunities are the foundation of keeping young adults in Nassau County. After losing private sector jobs for more than 10 years, good middle-class jobs have begun to return.

We stand here today with a record that includes creating and retaining more than 20,000 jobs and employment opportunities. Special recognition goes to my Office of Economic Development and the Nassau IDA, which has many success stories, including winning Dealertrack Technologies' headquarters for Nassau County. This \$112 million project will create 357 new jobs, retain 367 jobs, and provide a more than \$3 billion boost to Nassau's economy. Like many companies, Dealertrack was courted to move from Long Island by Texas, Utah, Florida, New Jersey, and South Carolina. We made sure Nassau County remains their home to grow.

Other job creation and retention success stories include Hain Celestial - who created 100 new jobs and moved their international headquarters to Lake Success, rather than New Jersey, after being courted by Governor Christie. R-Best Produce, who relocated their jobs and corporate headquarters from the Bronx to Port Washington, along with plans to create new jobs. Display Technologies, who relocated their headquarters and jobs from Queens to Lake

Success, with a promise to create additional jobs. New York Vanity, a Queens-based cabinet manufacturer, who moved its entire operation and jobs to Freeport. The list of accomplishments goes on and on, from Jesco Lighting, to New York Community Bank, P&L Development, Aqua Enerviva, and Supreme Screa, a high-tech manufacturer from the Bronx who is moving dozens of jobs to Nassau and creating dozens more. That's good news.

Even better news is that we are also growing healthcare and hi-tech jobs by providing assistance to entities like Winthrop University Hospital, who is building new lab space in Mineola. Last week, we welcomed Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine, which will serve as a building block to attract healthcare related R&D to further grow Nassau County's healthcare industry, now our number one employer. In fact, I will soon be advancing legislation to locate Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on the Hub property. Sloan Kettering will bring 250 good-paying jobs, with an average salary of \$150,000 a year.

My team also assisted Andrew Hazen and

Peter Goldsmith in the creation of a high technology business accelerator, known as LaunchPad, in downtown Great Neck Plaza and Mineola. This accelerator is bringing young entrepreneurs from New York City to Nassau County. Recently, one company at LaunchPad received \$800,000 in venture finding and the successes continue from there. Next month, Andrew and Peter will join me in launching Nassau's Tech Task Team. Together, with other leaders in the industry, we will make our region more attractive to creative young minds that can power an innovative economy. Yeah. That's good news.

Innovation is what has allowed us to success at the former Grumman property in Bethpage and Hicksville. Once a single employer venue dependent on defense contracts, it is now 600 acres of diverse businesses. It includes a state-of-the-art Homeland Security Center, housing opportunities, and Nassau's newest industry, film and television production. With more than \$250 million in annual economic benefit to Nassau, residents are finding job

opportunities in our growing film industry.

That's good news. Nassau County, with the support of elected officials like Legislators Richard Nicoletto, Denise Ford, Rose Walker and Laura Schaefer, is well on its way to establishing itself as the Hollywood East of the movie and television industry.

While we have successfully replaced the defense industry at the former Grumman property, I remain committed to fighting for strong environmental cleanup requirements. I joined with Assemblyman Joseph Saladino in advocating for cleanup legislation, and I support Senator Schumer in calling on the U.S. Navy to fund a comprehensive cleanup of our water supply and soil vapors. Our County resources are committed to continuing our fight for a comprehensive cleanup plan. Until then, let us commend our local water districts that make certain we do not drink or come in contact with this contaminated water. Let's hear it for our water district. Let me further recognize State Senator Jack Martins, who I joined with, to further protect our drinking water from the threat of future

contamination with this pending legislation.

For the first time in more than a decade, government is working for the people by attracting jobs, and our success is evident. Nassau continues to lead the region with the lowest unemployment rate, at 4.1 percent, down from more than 5 percent a year ago, and down from 7 percent in 2010. This success is attributed to our aggressive economic development plan, in partnership with the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce, that focused on job generation and job retention, as well as efficient and cost effective government. Now you can do your part to continue to strengthen our economy by making a greater effort to shop local.

A pillar of our economic success is found in increasing affordable housing opportunities for our young workforce. The fact is, today's starter home for many young families is actually an affordable apartment. To assist young families and meet employers need for a skilled and educated workforce, my administration, with the assistance of Legislator Richard Nicolello and Vision Long Island, partnered with the

private sector.

More than 3,500 new apartments have opened or are under construction in our County, with more than 1,000 units being constructed through our initiative to convert vacant office space into apartments near transit centers. While many talk about transit-oriented development, you can view our successes in Hempstead, Great Neck Plaza, Farmingdale, Mineola, Roslyn, and Westbury. To continue this successful program, my administration, with the assistance of Legislators Fran Becker and Vincent Muscarella, earmarked federal funds to study transit-oriented centers. Accordingly, we partnered with Valley Stream Village Mayor Ed Fare to identify an area for nearly 300 new residential condos or rentals, thereby providing much-needed housing near businesses along Rockaway Avenue. Thank you, Ed. In Lynbrook, we worked with Village Mayor Bill Hendrick to recommend a zoning overlay district to attract additional cultural and entertainment uses, including housing. Thank you, Bill. Pivoting off of this study, we are also working to bring

about desired improvements to walkability, accessibility, and safety, with the overarching goal of economic development in Baldwin. Baldwin is also where my administration is working with Legislator Laura Curran to replace the dilapidated First Precinct with a new storm-resistant, state-of-the-art facility.

Our housing initiative not only assists young families, it vitalizes downtowns by eliminating community blight and increasing economic activity. That said, holding property taxes down keeps properties affordable and helps young families transition from apartments to the American Dream of homeownership.

While neighboring municipalities increased property taxes by nearly 10 percent since 2010, I froze County property taxes for five straight years. This year is the sixth straight year in which households earning under \$500,000 annually will not pay a net dime more than they did in 2010. That's a great accomplishment. If you make over \$500,000 a year, God Bless you. This is accomplished by participating in Governor Cuomo's Property Tax

Freeze Credit Program, which rewards counties like ours that stay within the tax cap with a dollar-for-dollar reimbursement checks to residents. Combined with the elimination of Nassau's Home Energy Tax and a 20 percent reduction in the size of government, more money is in your wallet rather than the pocket of government.

Nassau County used to spend too much, tax too high and reform too little. In fact, when I took office in 2010, we faced a \$378 million deficit. With the cooperation of NIFA and it's Chairman Jon Kaiman, we made great progress this year. Based on NIFA's new stricter accounting standards, we have improved Nassau's finances by 60 percent, reduced recurring expenses and increased recurring revenue through contract concessions and smart public-private partnerships. Staying on this path will insure Nassau fixes decades of poor policies while not punishing present day taxpayers with large tax increases. Clearly, by working together with Presiding Officer Gonsalves, Minority Leader Abrahams, the entire Legislature working

together, and NIFA, we are on the road to being the most financially secure county in the region. We have cut \$330 million in wasteful spending, implemented efficiencies, consolidated departments, reinvented the way government operates, reformed the assessment system, and reduced the size of government by 20 percent.

Working with this Legislature and NIFA, we negotiated labor concessions that save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars by requiring new employee contributions to healthcare and pension costs while reforming work rules. We brought significant improvements to Nassau and protected our residents' wallets by implementing public-private partnerships. By working together with NIFA and in a bi-partisan manner, we doubled Nassau County's reserves to \$120 million and reduced the cost of government by more than any other municipality.

We have a fiscal management team in place to quickly respond to the rhythm of our economy. For example, we are closely monitoring the abnormal fluctuations in sales tax receipts and adjusting our budget to account for same.

Working against with Presiding Officer Gonsalves, Minority Leader Abrahams, and legislators, we have set a path to address decades of Nassau's past certiorari debt. This renewed bi-partisan cooperation saves taxpayer dollars and will benefit future generations.

Bi-partisan cooperation will allow us to preserve public transportation, which is essential for our economy. In order to advance efficiencies and provide reliable service for commuters, we launched a successful public-private partnership which saves taxpayers \$30 million a year.

Efficiencies were also made at the county jail, where Sheriff Michael Sposato produced an annual saving of \$7 million by bringing private health care professionals into the jail to provide health care services onsite, thereby eliminating the costly expenses of correction officers accompanying convicts to local hospitals and clinics for treatment. Let's hear it for Mike.

In fact, Nassau leads the nation in public-private partnerships. Our largest public-

private partnership is the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, where, with the support and leadership of Presiding Officer Gonsalves, Minority Leader Abrahams and the entire County Legislature, construction will begin later this year to turn the outdated arena into a world-class sports-entertainment destination.

The new Coliseum will retain its history of honoring our veterans while sharing revenue with County taxpayers, employ 2,700 people and provide \$10 billion in economic benefit to Nassau. When complete, the Coliseum will host several New York Islander games, Brooklyn Nets games, New York Yankee Coaching Clinics, children shows, heavyweight boxing championships, minor league hockey, and college basketball games, as well as an exciting array of star-studded performers and family-fun entertainment. It's good news.

The transformed Coliseum is only the beginning. After completion, Plaza Development will take place to construct a performing arts theatre, movie theatre, bowling alley and themed restaurants. I am certain this world-class

destination will get the attention of the NHL.

While I was disappointed when taxpayers voted no to building an arena to keep our only professional sports team, we have an opportunity to keep their roots in Nassau County. Tonight, I account we are close to finalizing plans, that I will forward to the Legislature, for a new historic public-private partnership with the Islanders to construct a state-of-the-art corporate office and practice facility here in Nassau County. This facility will cement the Islanders in Nassau and provide hope, that we will witness their full-time return when they see the magnificent new Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. We will continue to work to make that a reality. Whether they know it or not, we're going to continue to try to keep our sports team here. This project will also create a sports-entertainment destination that will further provide a venue for our young adults. Studies have clearly shown that today's youth seek such destinations when choosing where to reside; and Nassau's destination will be second to none.

Friends, I address you tonight, just

blocks away from the Coliseum, at Nassau's new indoor ice rinks. Another public-private partnership, this center accommodates our residents, skating professionals and increases tourism while providing youth athletics with state-of-the-art facilities. In fact, this center is currently the training facility for Team USA figure skater champion, if you will, Samantha Cescario of Oceanside. This is where she trains. Let's cheer her on to national and international competitions. I want to pause tonight to thank Ron Friedman, operator of this facility, for hosting tonight's State of the County Address and for his partnership with the County.

Another public-private partnerships, just blocks away from this rink, include a new collegiate baseball field funded by Molloy College, and the New York Cosmos' practice field funded by the team. Both facilities, located at Mitchel Field, were 100 percent privately funded and benefit our residents who utilize the sports complex. I want to thank Molloy College and the Cosmos for their partnership with our County.

Another public-private partnership, largely, privately funded by philanthropist Lawrence Kadish, is the Museum of American Armor at Old Bethpage Village Restoration. I would encourage you all to visit there. This successful partnership brings new excitement to Old Bethpage, generates revenue and creates a permanent living classroom for a new generation of Americans to appreciate the battlefield sacrifices made on their behalf. Mr. Kadish, I salute you for your investment in our County and for your commitment to keeping the memories of America's heroes alive.

So again, these public-private partnerships replace taxpayer costs with private sector investment and taxpayer revenue sharing. That's the difference; these are investments by the private sector to bring public benefits. In the past, your tax dollars paid for construction, your tax dollars paid for costly maintenance, your tax dollars paid for costly utilities, and this approach represented only costs to taxpayers. Our new approach requires private sector dollars to construct these facilities,

maintain the facilities, pay the utility bills, and share revenue with Nassau County. Indeed, our model replaces reoccurring expenses with reoccurring revenue, while providing public access to state-of-the-art facilities.

My administrations' determination to save taxpayers' dollars through public-private partnerships is working. In fact, the most recent public-private partnership was entered into this year to better safeguard our environment, strengthen our quality of life, save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and improve the management and operation of our three wastewater treatment facilities. This partnership was formed to dramatically improve the county's ability to protect our environment and the health and well being of our residents. Together with United Water, we are implementing unprecedented advances in environmental protection, odor control, management efficiencies, plant aesthetics and public information. Thanks to Governor Cuomo's commitment of \$150 million for Bay Park, where we will construct a nitrogen removal system to

protect our marshlands and clean up our Western Bays, and set us up for that ocean outfall pipe. From nitrogen removal to establishing a new public park, to improving our ability to recover from future storms, we have the means of making these plants more environmentally friendly, more efficient and better stewards of our environment. That said, we are not yet done.

Legislators Denise Ford and Howard Kopel continue to work with my administration to secure funds for an ocean outfall pipe. With the assistance of Governor Cuomo, State Senator Skelos, U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Congressional Representatives King and Rice, as well as organizations such as Vision Long Island, Operation SPLASH, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, we will continue to press FEMA for the dollars needed to build an ocean outfall pipe to protect our waterways and marshlands for this generation and future generations. This benefits not only those residing in East Rockaway and Bay Park, but all residents and future generations as well as recreational boating and commercial fishing. It is initiatives such as this that are

improving our quality of life.

That too can be said for the many environmentally friendly initiatives my administration and this legislation has tackled, such as stopping the pollution of Zach's Bay, converting traffic lights and lighting fixtures to LED, using green construction at the Public Safety Center, and producing solar energy at Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. In fact, the County and NICE Bus were recognized for reducing our carbon footprint through the purchasing of natural gas.

I am also proud that we have earned recognition, we've a Regional Leadership Award from Vision Long Island for safer roadways, greenways, new transit-oriented housing and environmental protection. This past year, I was honored to receive the Environmental Equinox Award for Outstanding Commitment for the Protection and Restoration of the Western Bays from the Citizens Campaign for the Environment. Our Health Department, led by Dr. Lawrence Eisenstein, who we're very proud of, was nationally recognized for Excellence in Public

2 Health by the National Association of County and
3 City Health Officials. Good job, Larry. Our
4 police department received worldwide recognition
5 by being awarded the 2014 Community Policing
6 Award for efforts in fighting the heroin epidemic
7 that plagues our nation. Good job.

8 I am very proud of my team and all those
9 who volunteer in my administration. And we have
10 a lot of volunteers from the private sector,
11 which I am very grateful for.

12 Our successes are well documented and
13 provide the confidence that we will address
14 today's challenges and any challenge that is
15 presented to this administration.

16 A major challenge is that of heroin
17 addiction. Too many young people are dying from
18 drug overdoses. While many thought the days of
19 heroin addicts ended in the 70's with the deaths
20 of rock stars like Jim Morrison, it continues
21 today with the death of not only Academy-Award
22 winning actor Phillip Seymour Hoffman, but the
23 children who live in our neighborhoods and who
24 attend our local schools. Statistics indicate
25 that 51 people died of heroin overdoses in 2014

and another 123 people died by abusing prescription drugs.

My administration has combated heroin and opioid abuse through a comprehensive strategy of enforcement, education, awareness and treatment. In continuing the war on prescription drug abuse and the heroin epidemic, we provide drug abuse prevention initiatives in schools, and strong police enforcement on our streets. Recently, State Senators Jack Martins and Kemp Hannon assisted our efforts by providing additional funding for investigations of fatal heroin and opioid overdoses - with the goal of stopping the supply. Through a federal, state and local law enforcement initiative, former District Attorney Rice, now Congresswoman Rice, and I announced in December the dismantling of a multi-million dollar illegal drug pipeline which ran directly from Mexico to New York City and Long Island. While these drug dealers may no longer kill our children, others are out there and we will continue our efforts to take them down.

To give families a chance at recovery, we launched free Narcan training to reverse an

overdose. In fact, we have trained 3,500 citizens to administer Narcan. Moreover, with the support of Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, police officers and AMTs are now equipped with Narcan to help save lives. In October, my administration partnered with the Long Island Crisis Center to launch a new 24 hour a day, seven day a week mental health and substance abuse hotline.

To treat our kids and neighbors that get hooked on drugs, my administration created a model program called "A Shot at Life". I want to specifically thank my wife Linda for her persistence, passion, and dedication in addressing drug abuse. In launching this program, in which addiction specialists screen candidates to whom they administer a non-narcotic medication, which has promising addiction-kicking results. Unlike other medications long used to treat Opiate addiction, this is a once a month, extended release injection that cannot be abused, is non-addictive, and caps brain receptors from the cravings of Opiates. Will Human Services Commissioner Lisa Murphy, Mental Health Director

2 Dr. James Dolan, my wife Linda, and all of my
3 staff that worked on this program please stand
4 and be recognized. Great work. Great job.

5 Will Nassau County AMTs also stand and be
6 recognized. They respond to all of our safety
7 issues, all of our health concerns. Please stand
8 and be recognized. And the countless numbers of
9 lives that you have saved each and every day here
10 in our County of Nassau. Thank you, AMTs.

11 Governor Cuomo bolstered our efforts by
12 allocating \$300,000 in funding to Nassau for
13 withdrawal services, so we thank him for that.
14 This will greatly help residents who struggle
15 with addiction in their efforts to detoxify from
16 Opiates and get that "Shot at Life."

17 While advancements in medicine are
18 helping us address many quality of life issues,
19 advancements in technology are allowing us to
20 keep residents informed. In Nassau, it's not all
21 about Facebook and Twitter, but rather about apps
22 we develop for our citizens. I encourage you to
23 download the Nassau County Crime Stoppers free
24 app, which helps catch those wanted for crimes
25 against our community. Nassau Works, a free

mobile and online app, that connects job seekers with thousands of local employment opportunities through the convenience of their phone or laptop via social media forums. Nassau Now, a free mobile and online application that connects residents and government. From reporting potholes to issuing important public safety alerts, Nassau Now connects us. In 2014, it helped address the concerns of 5600 residents. So let's address some more by downloading Nassau Now.

Other technology used at our Department of Public Works, where snow plows can now be tracked with GPS on an electronic map, so that supervisors know where they are, whether their plow is down, and whether the salter is on or off. And this system helps us efficiently manage our resources and assists the men and women of our Department of Public Works to meet weather challenges, like January's Blizzard Juno. I ask Commissioner Shila Shah, and the best snow operators a county executive could ever ask for, to please stand and be recognized. These are the men and women who are out day and night in

terrible, terrible conditions plowing the roads, making it passable so that we never shut a Nassau County road, so we can get to our hospitals and the police can get to your emergencies. Those are the people that do it. God Bless you.

I also want to recognize our Office of Emergency Management for their superior response to the blizzard, as well as Hurricane Sandy, and every other weather event or man-made even that we have to fix. I wanted to recognize tonight Commissioner Craft, who is home recovering from an illness so he's watching us on TV.

Commissioner Craft and your staff, great job. Let's give them a big round of applause.

Friends, I credit all of our success to the employees who perform their work each and every day. And certainly this legislation, working in a bi-partisan fashion, can move our county forward. My administration has truly engaged a diverse group of residents to help lead our County and enhance our quality of life. Diversity and opportunity for every American is found in our government where we empower managers that reflect the melting pot we live in today. I

am proud of the work Nassau's employees are performing to make certain all residents have a strong voice in our administration.

I commend Deputy County Executive Eric Naughton, who leads our Office of Management and Budget and helps me protect your wallet. Deputy County Executive Philip Elliot, who leads the Office of Minority Affairs in certifying women-owned and minority-owned businesses. In September, we will host Long Island's largest MWBE procurement conference right here in Nassau County. Thank you, Phil. Eldia Gonzalez, Executive Director of the Coordinating Agency for Spanish-Americans, for launching successful language and small business programs that benefit our entire region. County Attorney Carnell Foskey, working to protect your tax dollars. Yeah. I know. Beaumont Jefferson, our County Treasurer, and Jim Davis, our County Assessor, for working diligently to deliver tax refunds to victims of Hurricane Sandy. Dr. James Dolan, Executive Director of Mental Health, for securing \$2.7 million today from the State of New York for the re-establishment of a mental health clinic in

Long Beach, following the loss of such services post-Hurricane Sandy. Thank you, Dr. Dolan. Thank you. Social Service Commissioner John Imhoff, for cracking down on welfare fraud and saving more than \$50 million. This guy works very hard. Let's recognize John. And of course, Tim Williams our Chairman of the IDA, for working to bring new companies and jobs to our great county. Time doesn't allow me to recognize everybody on my team, but I want them all to know that I'm very, very proud of the work and dedication that they have shown and continue to provide the citizens of Nassau County. I am proud of you all.

And here's an interesting fact. My administration has the most diverse management team in the history of Nassau County.

I am equally proud of our residents who stepped up to lead important committees. We have many residents that put countless hours, that do not get paid and they really do make a difference in the County. And largely that's why we're successful, because we listen to them. We try to take their experiences, their concerns, their

research, and we turn them into legislation that works.

I want to recognize the Nassau Nonprofit Task Force, led by Darren Sandow and championed by Amy Haggdorn of the Haggdorn Foundation, for creating a collaborative effort between government and not-for-profit agencies to streamline bureaucracy, cut red tape, and ensure the continuation of critical programs for our families and youth. The Task Force on Family Violence, is a great one, comprised of dedicated individuals who developed an awareness campaign to reduce instances of domestic violence. I want to applaud them for the great work they do. The Prescription Drug Task Force, which is comprised of a panel of experts that developed an awareness, education, enforcement and counseling program that's very effective in our County. My Business Advisory Council, chaired by Bert Brodsky, which provides advice and guidance to advance our economy and create jobs. The Nassau County Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club, led by Brian Fried, which supports innovative products seeking to go beyond the developmental phase.

2 He's doing a great job. A great group of people.
3 The Asian-American Economic Advisory Commission,
4 chaired by Michael Limb, which works to attract
5 new businesses to Nassau. Thank you, Michael.

6 Now I want to take a moment to recognize
7 some good Nassau County hometown pride. The
8 members of the Nassau Community College Football
9 Team, led by Bethpage's own, Head Coach Joe
10 Osovet, achieved an undefeated record during the
11 season this year. First time in the history of
12 Nassau Community College. Let's recognize Coach
13 Osovet, and of course the Lion Football Team.
14 They led us to their victory in Arizona, and they
15 will soon be in Texas for the first time for a
16 junior college event. First time we're invited
17 there. We're very, very proud of our football
18 team. They are great young athletes.

19 There is so much to be proud of and so
20 much to look forward to. And that's the message
21 here, you should be proud of your County, proud
22 of where you live. Just the way you root for
23 your favorite sports team, you should root for
24 the success of your county because it benefits
25 you, it benefits your children, and it makes

Nassau County the greatest place to live, work, and raise a family. We have an exciting vision for our County. We have an exciting vision for our County, and it's fast becoming a reality. Our County is on a wonderful path. A path that continues to provide for financial stability. A path that continues to create more jobs and housing opportunities for our youth. A path that allows seniors to retire in the communities they built. A path that continues to provide an affordable government for taxpayers. A path that continues to honor our hometown heroes by ensuring no veterans goes homeless, and that all veterans receive the benefits they have earned. A path that maintains our safety and continues to welcome all citizens who wish to call Nassau County their home.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your county executive. I love this County. I love this job. This year, in particular, I am very proud of this legislature for their efforts to work in a bi-partisan fashion, which benefits all of us, our children, and future generations. Real progress was made over the past year, and I

2 look forward to making even more progress in the
3 year to come. Thank you once again for allowing
4 me to serve as your county executive.

5 May God Bless you, and God Bless the
6 United States of America.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion to
8 adjourn?

9 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
12 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
13 Nicolello.

14 All in favor?

15 (Aye.)

16 Meeting is adjourned.

17 (Whereupon, the State of the County
18 Address adjourned at 7:48 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and
Notary Public in and for the State of New York,
do hereby state:

THAT I attended at the time and place above
mentioned and took stenographic record of the
proceedings in the above-entitled matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true and
accurate transcript of the same and the whole
thereof, according to the best of my ability and
belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand this 30th day of March, 2015.

FRANK GRAY